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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION
Washington 25, D. C.

September 15, 1944

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 13

LIBRARY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

INSPECTORS MUST TREAT AS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION THEY MAY ACQUIRE REGARDING BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF APPLICANTS

Our inspectors frequently acquire a considerable amount of information regarding the business affairs of applicants for whom they make inspections and are sometimes asked by banks or other business agencies for opinions as to the financial status of such applicants. Federal regulations do not permit an employee to divulge information which he may have acquired in connection with his official duties.

Great tact must be used in replying to inquiries of this kind. One of the best replies is that the only information which the Department can give on the affairs of such parties is that which is contained in the certificates which it issues to any financially interested party which will show the quality of specific lots of the products which such firms are packing. Inspectors are particularly warned against discussing the quality of the products inspected for any firm with another party, and against careless remarks which might be interpreted as reflecting on the credit of such firms.

Paul M. Williams
Assistant Chief.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Under the new procedure established February 1, 1944, all offices of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch are using Certificate of Deposit Form No. 1. As a result of this change in procedure, Form 6599 (Revised) is not needed in connection with work of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch. Please forward all supplies of Form 6599 (Revised) direct to this office immediately in order that these may be placed at the disposal of other Branches or Agencies requiring this form.

W. C. Hasbrouck
Administrative Officer

PROCESSED PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

GRADES OF CANNED TOMATO PASTE

A new Tenatative United States Standard for Grades of Canned Tomato Paste has been issued to become effective September 15, 1944. The increasing demands for concentrated products by the Armed Services required an extensive study on this commodity. The U. S. Standard will become an integral part of the Tentative Quartermaster Corps specifications covering this item.

HANDBOOK ARTICLE - DEHYDRATION

All processed products inspection offices will receive during the month of September a series of handbook articles which will comprise an over-all inspection manual on dehydration. A general section has been provided with the following supplements issued as separate articles: Analytical Section, Sections on Dehydrated Beets, Carrots, Cabbage, Onions, White Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, and Rutabagas.

GRADING DEMONSTRATIONS

The Washington office has received numerous requests - from more than one-half of the States - for demonstrations of the grading of processed foods. It is anticipated that many of the home economists now in the inspection service will be delegated to handle these assignments insofar as their time and duties will permit.

IDENTIFICATION IN SIGNING WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS

Some question has been raised by Warehousemen storing government-owned merchandise concerning some of our inspectors not properly identifying themselves in signing of receipts for goods removed as samples for inspections. It is requested that all inspectors, when signing such receipts, sign their name and title as Processed Foods Inspector, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, War Food Administration. This will remove any doubt as to what agency is responsible for removing the samples.

NOTES

Francis R. Saunders and Percy Hall, inspectors stationed in our Gardiner, Maine, office, who have been on extended sick leave, have returned to duty.

A temporary inspection laboratory, which will operate approximately two months - or during the heavy canning season in that area - was opened at Fredonia, New York, Tuesday, August 29, 1944. Mr. Howard R. Lacey is in charge. The address is as follows:

(P. O. Box 203)
36 Main Street
Fredonia, New York

F. L. Southerland, Acting Chief.

MARKET NEWS DIVISION

QUOTING POTATOES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SIZE

A number of offices have on occasions quoted potatoes as "U. S. No. 1 and U. S. No. 1, size A" within the same single price range. This is quite satisfactory when it accurately reflects the current market. Since ceiling regulations allow a 10¢ premium on U. S. No. 1 size A and U. S. Extra over the U. S. No. 1 price, care should be exercised in establishing the price on the various grades. If there is any difference in the price range on the individual grades they should not be combined with the thought that the prices on Size A or Extra No. 1 will fall in the upper end of the range and regular U. S. No. 1 in the lower end of the range.

COPIES OF WARTIME FOOD BULLETIN

Only one copy of the "Weekly Wartime Food Bulletin" need be mailed to Washington. This also applies to any other local press or radio releases. The regular number of market reports, unload reports, and summaries should be mailed as in the past. Any copies of the "Weekly Wartime Food Bulletins" requested by the Marketing Reports Division, either in Washington or the Regional offices should be continued.

ADD TO WO-WU CODE PAGE

WUM 1/2 bu. baskets
WUN faced 1/2-bu. baskets
WUP unfaced 1/2 bu. baskets

AK U. S. No. 2

Mr. Risser, of the Payette office, suggested these additions so that all terms commonly used in quoting prunes would be contained on this page. A wire to all leased wire offices made the additions effective Sept. 11.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS - MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Location	In Charge	Commodity	Opening and Probable Closing Dates
Benton Harbor, Mich. 206 P. O. Bldg.	J. H. Selby	Misc. F & V	Aug. 1 - Oct. 31
Fresno, Calif. 317 Holland Bldg.	J. A. Hunter	Grapes & Cants.	July 20 - Nov. 12
Idaho Falls, Idaho 206 Federal Bldg.	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 29 - Apr. 30
Lakeland, Florida Box 191	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 2 - June 20
Martinsburg, W. Va. 311 W. King St.	R. M. Peterson	Apples	Sept. 12 - Dec. 9
Presque Isle, Maine Federal Bldg.	S. W. Russell	Citrus	Sept. 12 - Apr. 30
Rochester, N. Y. 300 Terminal Bldg.	A. L. Thomas	Misc. F & V.	Aug. 28 - May 31
Waupaca, Wisc Court House	B. I. Burrell	Potatoes	Sept. 5 - Mar. 31
Probable Closing Date			
Payette, Idaho	R. G. Risser	Plums & Fr. Prunes	Sept. 11 - Sept. 26

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief.

FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

CHECK LIST

The check list of Receiving Market and Shipping Point Handbooks dated September 1, 1944, is being sent to all inspectors.

TEMPORARY OR SEASONAL HEADQUARTERS OF SHIPPING POINT INSPECTION

For New Jersey potato reports wire N. W. Broome, Federal State Inspection Service, Hightstown, N. J.

" Virginia sweet potato reports wire Federal-State Inspection Service, Onley, Virginia.

" Virginia apple and peach reports wire Federal-State Inspection Service, 417 N. Cameron St., Winchester, Va.

" West Virginia apple and peach reports wire Federal-State Inspection Service, Berkeley Hotel Bldg., Martinsburg, W. Va.

NOTES:

Fred C. Hartz of the Atlanta office will replace W. D. Lurry, in charge of the New Orleans office about September 18. Richard D. Williams of the Pittsburgh office will arrive in Atlanta September 18 to replace Mr. Hartz. Fred Willson replaces R. D. Williams in Pittsburgh.

Ashton LeCompte has been appointed as a Collaborator to help with the inspection work in the New Orleans office.

Roy M. Jahr of the Minneapolis office is on extended sick leave. Theodore L. Trantanella is being appointed as an Agent to handle his work.

Roy J. Blackman, who handled shipping point work, has been appointed as a Marketing Specialist to help with the market inspection work in Philadelphia.

Earl Biddick, with headquarters at Lansing, is in charge of the shipping point inspection work in Michigan formerly handled by K. W. Schaible. Mr. Biddick will also handle the supervision of the Mississippi shipping point inspection work.

Harold E. Cunningham has been placed in charge of the supervision of the shipping point inspection work in Tennessee.

Bernard L. Graff is now in charge of the shipping point inspection work in Ohio and the fresh fruit an d vegetable destination inspections at Columbus.

E. E. Conklin, Chief.

VEGETABLE MARKETING DIVISION

VEGETABLE GOALS FOR 1945

Representatives of the Division have been working with other agencies in WFA in developing a goals program for vegetable production in 1945. Estimated requirements for each vegetable crop or group will be considered along with marketing and production factors. An announcement relating to the 1945 vegetable production and marketing program will probably be made later this fall.

PRICE CEILING AND SUPPORT PRICE PROGRAM FOR 1945

Discussions have been under way with OPA in regard to possible modification of vegetable price ceilings for 1945, particularly as they are affected by recent legislation requiring adjustments for substantial reductions in merchantable crop yields and for other factors. The policy in regard to price support for processing vegetables for 1945 is also being considered.

ONION SITUATION

The Western onion situation is the most important current vegetable marketing problem. The late crop of onions in the Western States is about 50 percent greater than last year and almost twice as large as the 10-year average, 1933-42. About 56 percent of the late crop is in the Western States compared with 35 percent for the 10-year average. A large part of the western crop is of the Sweet Spanish variety and storage facilities in the producing areas are not sufficient to take care of the greatly expanded production. Heaviest production is in Colorado, Idaho, California and Eastern Oregon. Onions have been designated a Victory Food Selection for the period September 21- October 7. Emphasis is placed on moving into consumption and storage outside the producing areas as many western onions as possible during the harvesting period. For the current fiscal year, July - June, the per capita civilian supply of onions of 12.4 pounds is not abnormally large. In 5 of the last 10 years the civilian per capita supply has exceeded 12 pounds. Present estimates are that about 5 million sacks of 100 pounds will be used by Government agencies during the fiscal year. This includes use for dehydration, Military and Lend-Lease. Onion marketing assistance is being rendered by WFA in accordance with the announced policy of March 4, 1944, which states "WFA will extend assistance to fresh vegetable growers to the extent possible throug (1) encouragement of movement through normal trade channels, (2) diversion of surplus fresh vegetables to processing, and (3) purchases of surplus fresh vegetables for distribution through Government channels." It is planned to make purchases for relief distribution within the limits of available outlets. Growers and shippers have been urged to assist by giving careful attention to grading and packing.

TOMATO AND CABBAGE SITUATION

The surplus situation in canning tomatoes which was anticipated in the Middle West, Middle Atlantic States and California is now not expected to become serious. The ceiling price on cabbage for fresh market was removed September 13 for the rest of this month. Low yields are indicated in New York and other Eastern States, although yields in other important areas are satisfactory.

CERTAIN VEGETABLES FOR FREEZING SUBSIDIZED

A program to subsidize certain vegetables for freezing, similar to that in effect during last year, is being developed to cover the 1944 pack of certified processors. This program covers snap beans, peas and sweet corn, and was announced by a Directive by the OES, effective September 9, and published in the Federal Register. Contracts are expected to be ready soon for deliveries to freezers.

L. S. Fenn, Acting Chief.

FRUIT MARKETING DIVISION

WFO-69-2, Amendment 1

All apples below the Utility grade were released for use in the production of alcoholic products by Amendment 1 to War Food Order 69-2, effective September 9, 1944. WFO-69-2, effective July 15, released early apples, except those grown in the State of California, below the Utility grade, up to and including August 31. This amendment extends the release to all apples below the Utility grade, including those grown in California.

The amendment further provides that the apples so released must have been culled from a larger lot or lots which were sorted for marketing in fresh form or for processing. This provision does not preclude the issuance of special authorizations by County AAA Committee members on lots not culled from larger lots, if it is determined that there is no market available for such apples for human consumption except when used in the production of an alcoholic product. A letter was issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to its County Committee members which called attention to the authority of its members to issue special authorizations when circumstances warrant.

WFO-108

California canners have accepted delivery of 117,000 tons of pears. The total pack-out, including fresh shipment, is estimated to be 175,000 tons. Operations under this order are practically completed.

It is expected that from 8000 to 10,000 tons of surplus pears in the Northwest will be moved to California under the pear equalization payment program. Bids have been received covering approximately 8000 tons.

The purchase of Clingstone peaches in California is being completed. The total quantity purchased will not exceed 600 tons.

The British Food Mission has approved the substitution of fresh apples for part of our commitments of dried apples for delivery to the United Kingdom. The Procurement and Price Support Branch is making plans to purchase fresh apples for such export shipments. These shipments will constitute the first shipments of fresh apples to the United Kingdom in several years.

FROZEN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PACKERS INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Packers Industry Advisory Committee met with the War Food Administration on September 11 to discuss the acute freezer storage space situation and the impact of the new Freezer Space Limitation Order WFO-111-1 on the Inudstry. A Task Committee of the advisory group submitted figures showing anticipated September 1 storage holdings and the probable production through November - the most critical period for the Industry from a storage space standpoint.

These estimates indicated total holdings of frozen fruits and vegetables of approximately 479,000,000 pounds on October 1, 1944. This compares with holdings of 389,000,000 pounds on October 1, 1943. The 1944 inventory increase over last year amounts to about 22 percent. The Task Committee submitted also certain recommendations with regard to space limitation order covering certain commodities deemed less essential than staple fruits and vegetables for which there is a real need both by civilians and the Armed Forces. Action was deferred on the recommendation of the Committee that the Industry be given sixty days, after the effective date of the Order-WFO 111-1, instead of thirty days to comply with the provision that inventories be limited to October 1, 1943, holdings.

D. F. McMillen, Acting Chief.